Search Notes

US006681246B1

(12) **United States Patent**
Dutta

(10) **Patent No.: US 6,681,246 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent: Jan. 20, 2004**

(54) **METHOD, SYSTEM, AND PROGRAM FOR AUTOMATICALLY PROCESSING PUSHED INFORMATION WITHOUT SUBSCRIBER INVOLVEMENT**

(75) Inventor: **Rabindranath Dutta**, Austin, TX (US)

(73) Assignee: **International Business Machines Corporation**, Armonk, NY (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **09/553,809**

(22) Filed: **Apr. 21, 2000**

(51) **Int. Cl.**[7] **G06F 15/16**
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **709/206**; 709/202; 709/203; 709/217; 709/219
(58) **Field of Search** 709/202, 206, 709/217, 203, 219

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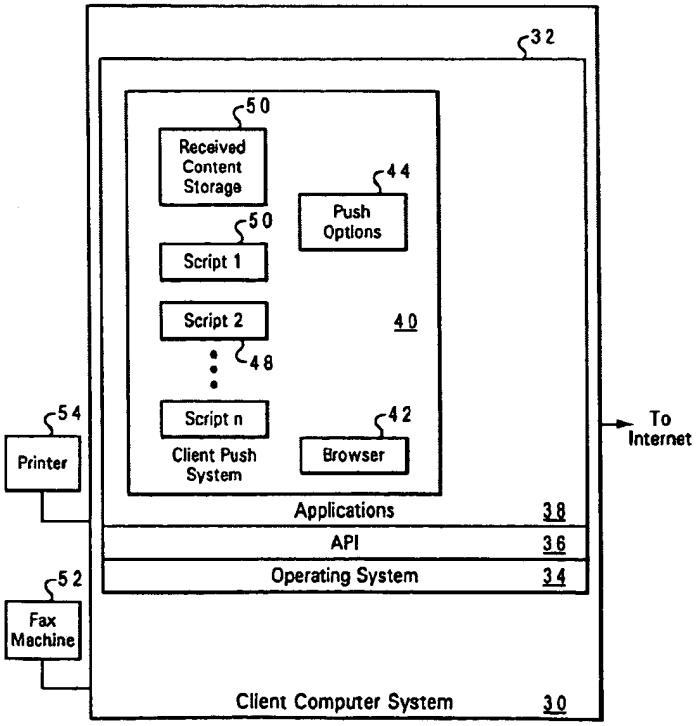
Primary Examiner—Nabil El-Hady
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Marilyn Smith Dawkins; Bracewell & Patterson, L.L.P.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method, system, and program are described in a client computer system for automatically processing information received by the client computer system from a server computer system over a network. A user utilizing a client computer system is permitted to subscribe to a service offered by a server computer system for pushing information to the client computer system. The information is pushed from the server computer to the client computer system at a time specified by the server computer system. The information is stored in the client computer system until a time specified by the client computer system. The information is automatically processed utilizing the client computer system without involvement by the user at the time specified by the client computer system. In various embodiments, the information can be automatically printed, faxed, or emailed utilizing the client computer system without involvement by the user at the time specified by the client computer system.

24 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets



US-PAT-NO:	6681246
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER:	US 6681246 B1
TITLE:	Method, system, and program for automatically processing pushed information without subscriber involvement

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Detailed Description Text - DETX (4):

A print script exists within the client which is called upon the receipt by the client of pushed information. The print script determines the subscriber's print preferences. For example, the subscriber will have specified a time at which the client should print the pushed information. The print script then automatically prints the pushed information when this time occurs without the need for any intervention or further involvement by the subscriber.

US006744862B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Kobylevsky et al.

(10) **Patent No.: US 6,744,862 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent: Jun. 1, 2004**

(54) **REMOTE PRESCRIPTION REFILL SYSTEM**

(75) Inventors: **Paul Kobylevsky**, Flushing, NY (US); **Valery Gurovich**, Ramsey, NJ (US)

(73) Assignee: **Telemanager Technologies, Inc.**, Newark, NJ (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **10/261,858**

(22) Filed: **Oct. 1, 2002**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2003/0035517 A1 Feb. 20, 2003

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 09/097,762, filed on Jun. 16, 1998, now Pat. No. 6,493,427.

(51) **Int. Cl.**[7] **H04M 1/64**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **379/88.16**; 379/67.1; 379/70; 379/88.12; 379/88.17; 379/88.18; 379/88.25

(58) **Field of Search** 379/67.1, 70, 88.12, 379/88.13, 88.16, 88.17, 88.18, 88.19, 88.25; 424/401, 402, 404; 206/570, 572; 340/311.1, 286.01, 825.44, 825.47

(56) **References Cited**

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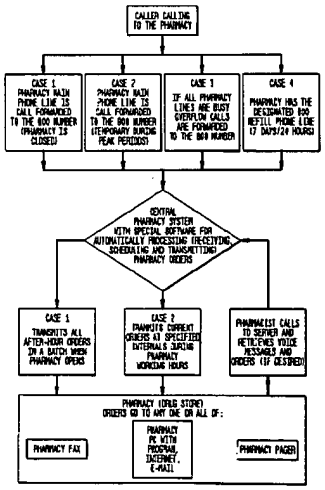
Primary Examiner—Allan Hoosain
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Wolff & Samson PC

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A central station is provided to which the pharmacy can forward calls at the convenience of the pharmacy. A caller will call in to the pharmacy to request a refill and the call will be automatically routed to the central facility unbeknownst to the caller. The central station will obtain the refill information required, preferably by means of an automated computer system as is known in the art. This information can then be transferred to the pharmacist in a number of ways, such as by periodically faxing the information to the pharmacy. Voice messages could be flagged and the pharmacist would have to call into the central facility to obtain the voice mail message. Alternatively, a PC could be installed in the pharmacy having a reduced version of a complete, stand-alone program. The refill information can then be sent to the pharmacy by modem and the pharmacist could see a computer display of the refill orders and could hear voice messages. Alternatively, the information could be e-mailed to the pharmacy. Finally, a pager system may be utilized to alert the pharmacist to retrieve orders by telephone with a password. It should also be noted that orders could be taken by the central station over the Internet rather than merely through customer calls.

22 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



US-PAT-NO: 6744862
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6744862 B2
TITLE: Remote prescription refill system

Detailed Description Text - DETX (74):

Depending on the setting chosen in the Receipt Printer Setup and the type of printer used, the orders may be printed as follows. With the narrow receipt printer, the system will automatically print every order received. When one clicks on the Print button on the Refill or Doctor screens, the order will be reprinted including the typed information. With a regular full-page printer the system will not automatically print every incoming order. One may print orders in full page format at any time as follows, choose the screen (Unfilled, Refills, Doctors, Phone Log, etc.) to be printed by clicking on the appropriate button on the Toolbar or by selecting from the Orders menu. One may also use the Search option from the Orders menu to print orders sorted by Type or by Date. Under the File menu, click on Print. The Print window appears with a list of the printers that are connected. Select the desired printer by clicking on it (it remains as the printer in use until a different printer is selected). To print the orders displayed on the screen click on the Print button in the Print window. The system prints a full-page document on the printer. For convenience once a printer is selected, one can also use the Print button on the Toolbar at the top of the main screen for all screen printing. A full-page document will be printed on the previously selected printer. In the Receipt Printer modem the printer must be maintained on line otherwise the printing error box will appear on the screen and all the incoming orders will be kept in queue.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (148):

With a narrow receipt printer, the system automatically prints every order received. Click on the Print button on the Refill (FIG. 5) or Doctor windows so that the order will be reprinted including the typed information. With a full-page printer, the system will not automatically print every incoming order. Print orders in full page format at any time by choosing the screen (Unfilled, Refills, Doctors, Phone Log, etc.) by clicking on the appropriate button on the Toolbar or by selecting from the Orders menu. Under the File menu, click on Print. The Print window appears with a list of the printers that are connected to the computer. On the Print window select the desired printer by clicking on it. then click on the Print button. A full-page document will be printed on the selected printer. Once a printer is selected, use the Print button on the Toolbar at the top of the main screen for all full-page printing. A full-page document will be printed on the previously selected printer. The Print button is disabled when a receipt printer is also installed in the system. In the Receipt Printer mode, the printer must be kept on line otherwise the printing error box will appear on the screen and all the incoming orders will be kept in queue until the error is corrected.

US006533168B1

(12) **United States Patent**
Ching

(10) **Patent No.: US 6,533,168 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent: Mar. 18, 2003**

(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COMPUTER-READABLE PURCHASE RECEIPTS USING MULTI-DIMENSIONAL BAR CODES**

(76) Inventor: **Peter N. Ching**, P.O. Box 513, Tustin, CA (US) 92781

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **09/579,446**

(22) Filed: **May 26, 2000**

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 60/136,642, filed on May 27, 1999.

(51) **Int. Cl.**[7] **G06F 17/00**
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **235/375**; 235/436
(58) **Field of Search** 235/381, 382, 235/375, 380, 492, 493, 449, 462.01–462.25, 436, 472.01, 472.02, 472.03, 435

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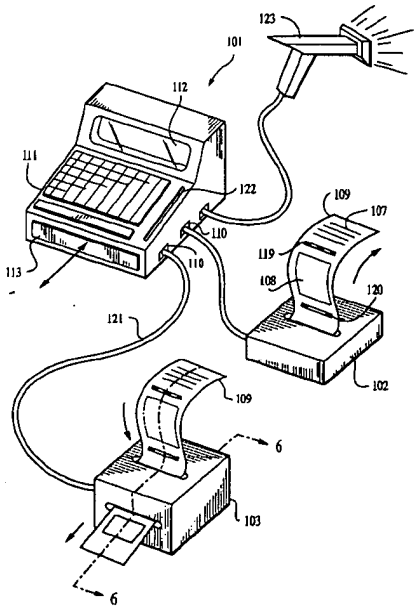
Primary Examiner—Thien M. Le
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Gazdzinski & Associates

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An information entry and reporting system and method for tracking data associated with retail transactions at the point of sale. Transaction data is converted into a machine readable dataform pattern and printed onto a sales receipt provided to the purchaser. Subsequently, the purchaser uses a suitably configured scanning device to read the dataform pattern into his or her computer. Software algorithms decode the scanned dataform pattern, extract the transaction data and store it for subsequent analysis and reporting. The system includes a computer, software adapted to retrieve selected data, assemble the retrieved data in a format suitable for encoding and encode the data in a dataform pattern, a printer to print the encoded transaction data, a scanning device to capture the encoded data, software to decode the transaction data and software to display the data in human readable form.

36 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets



US005971273A

United States Patent [19]

Vallaire

[11] Patent Number: 5,971,273

[45] Date of Patent: Oct. 26, 1999

[54] **AUTOMATED FLORIST SYSTEM ALLOWING DIRECT CONTACT WITH DELIVERING FLORIST**

[76] Inventor: **Milton E. Vallaire**, 3321 N. Villere St., New Orleans, La. 70117

[21] Appl. No.: **08/936,234**

[22] Filed: **Sep. 24, 1997**

Related U.S. Application Data

[60] Provisional application No. 60/026,675, Sep. 25, 1996.

[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **G06K 5/00**; G06K 7/08

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **235/381**; 235/382; 235/385; 705/26; 340/825.25

[58] **Field of Search** 235/381, 382, 235/383, 385; 340/825.25; 705/26, 25

[56] **References Cited**

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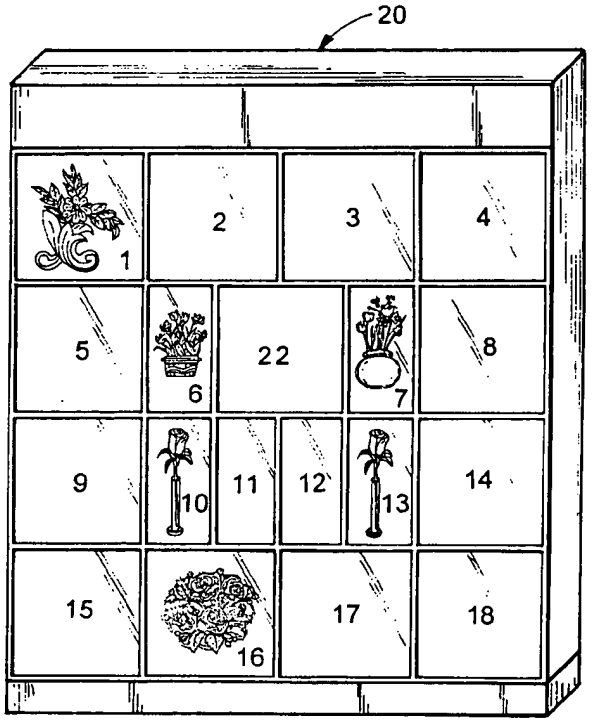
Primary Examiner—Thien Minh Le
Assistant Examiner—Daniel St. Cyr
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—C. Emmett Pugh; Pugh/Associates

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An automated florist system, including an associated cooler (**20**, FIG. **1**) and order taking control unit (**22**, FIG. **2**) for automated vending and order placements specifically for flowers and gift items. The system, with the control unit being pre-programmed using appropriate logic (FIG. **3**), allows a walk-up or drive-up customer to select from a variety of pre-made flower arrangements from discrete cells equipped with the necessary refrigeration for immediate purchase, or, alternatively, a selection may be made, and information entered, for remote delivery at a specified time and place (note displayed "order form" of FIG. **5**). Further, the operating, host florist of the vending system can remotely monitor and conduct all business with the vending machine from the operating florist's shop (FIG. **4**), with the sole exception of stocking the machine with items for immediate purchase; while the sending of an order to an affiliated florist for a distant delivery is fully automated; see FIG. **6**.

24 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



US-PAT-NO:	5971273
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER:	US 5971273 A
TITLE:	Automated florist system allowing direct contact with delivering florist

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Claims Text - CLTX (53):

having the order taking control unit programmed to **automatically print a receipt** for the customer at the time of the order that includes the details of the sale and information indentifying the delivering florist assigned by the control unit to fulfill the remote delivery of the customer selected item.

US005489773A

United States Patent [19]

Kumar

[11] Patent Number: 5,489,773

[45] Date of Patent: Feb. 6, 1996

[54] **INTEGRATED PORTABLE DEVICE FOR POINT OF SALE TRANSACTIONS**

[75] Inventor: **Rajendra Kumar**, Akron, Ohio

[73] Assignee: **Khyber Technologies Corporation**, Fairlawn, Ohio

[21] Appl. No.: **352,231**

[22] Filed: **Dec. 8, 1994**

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation of Ser. No. 213,489, Mar. 15, 1994, Pat. No. 5,386,106, which is a continuation of Ser. No. 767,270, Sep. 27, 1991, Pat. No. 5,294,782.

[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **G06K 7/10**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **235/462**; 235/472; 235/380

[58] **Field of Search** 235/379, 380, 235/381, 382, 383, 432, 462, 470, 472; 400/103, 104, 88

[56] **References Cited**

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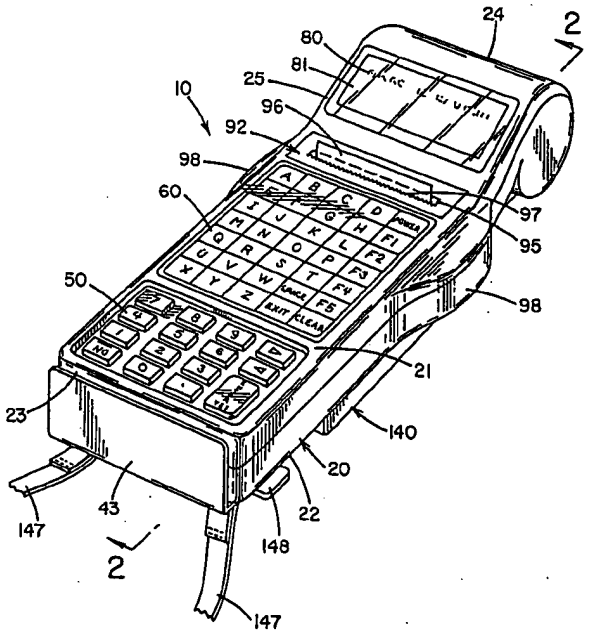
Primary Examiner—Edward P. Westin
Assistant Examiner—John R. Lee
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Sand & Sebolt

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A handheld, portable device for processing point of sale transactions includes a housing, a magnetic card reader for reading credit card information, the reader carried within the housing substantially adjacent to the first end of the housing, a numeric keyboard and an alphabetic keyboard for entering customer information, and a barcode scanner for scanning product identification information, the barcode scanner carried within the housing substantially adjacent to a second end of the housing. Also included is a display for displaying selected information, a printer for printing a customer receipt, a communications assembly for furnishing the information needed to obtain transaction approval, and a processor for receiving the information, and controlling the display, the printer and the communications assembly. Device furnishes all functions necessary to facilitate and complete a point of sale credit card transaction. The housing configuration allows handsfree operation for most functions. The arrangement of components within device provides a uniform distribution of weight and makes supporting device with one hand comfortable and relatively effortless.

20 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



US-PAT-NO: 5489773
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5489773 A
TITLE: Integrated portable device for point of sale transactions

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Detailed Description Text - DETX (20):

Thereafter, the operator may package the purchased products during which time device 10 will most likely receive a transaction approval from base station 112 and **automatically print** a customer **receipt**. The operator then tears off the customer **receipt**, places it under recessed flange 144 atop **receipt** caddy 140, and requests that the customer sign it. After it has been signed, the two-ply customer **receipt** is removed, a copy handed to the customer or placed in the products package, and the operator's copy passed through aperture 143 into chamber 142. At this juncture the operator and device 10 are ready to process another transaction. At any convenient time caddy 140 may be removed and all **receipts** in chamber 142 withdrawn.

US005396417A

United States Patent [19]

Burks et al.

[11] Patent Number: 5,396,417

[45] Date of Patent: Mar. 7, 1995

[54] **PRODUCT DISTRIBUTION EQUIPMENT AND METHOD**

[75] Inventors: **Rupert T. Burks**, New York, N.Y.; **Joseph M. Boska**, Sandy, Utah

[73] Assignee: **Capitol Cities/ABC, Inc.**, New York, N.Y.

[21] Appl. No.: **786,272**

[22] Filed: **Nov. 1, 1991**

[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **G06F 15/21**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **364/401**; 340/825

[58] **Field of Search** 364/401, 406, 405; 235/381-383; 340/825, 706, 711; 341/173; 395/148-149, 500; 382/47

[56] **References Cited**

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5,095,195	3/1992	Harmon et al.	235/383
5,142,622	8/1992	Owens	395/500
5,157,769	10/1992	Eppley et al.	395/500

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

0282992 9/1988 Japan G06K 71/08

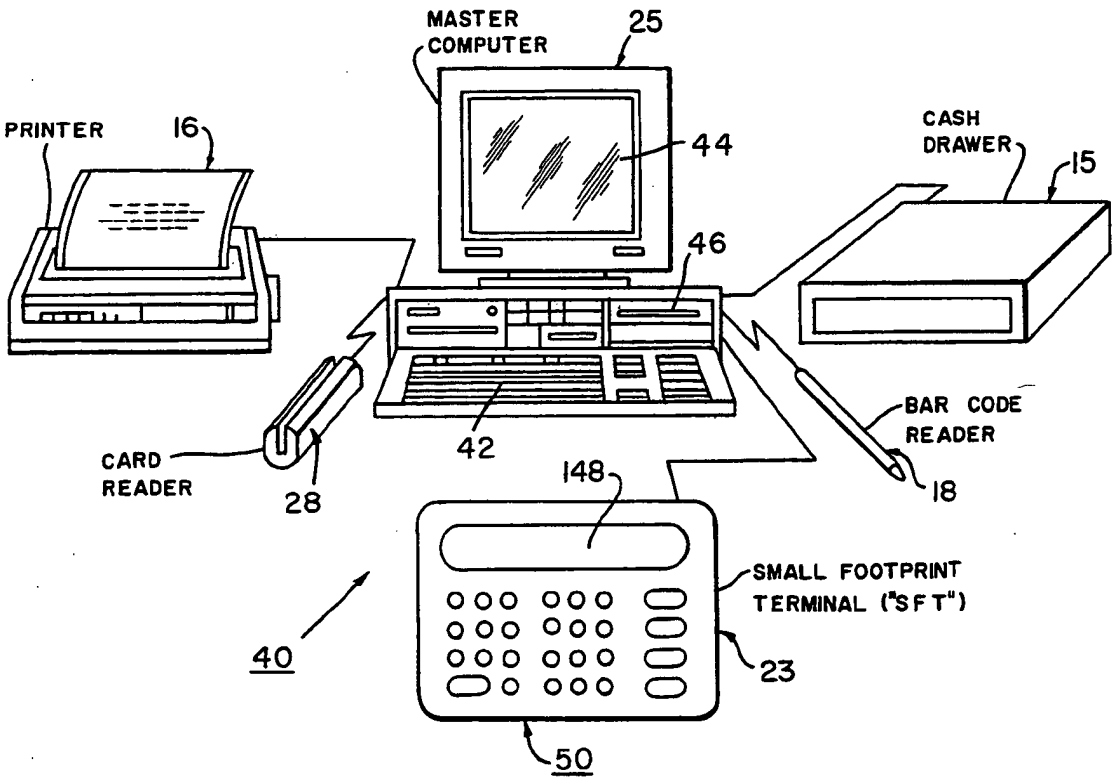
Primary Examiner—Gail O. Hayes

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Curtis Morris & Safford

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A data collection device and method, particularly for point-of-sale systems used in the sales and rental of merchandise including video records, and more particularly for a revenue-sharing video record rental system. In such a revenue-sharing system, both revenue-sharing records and ordinary merchandise can be sold using the same point-of-sale entry system. Data relating to the sales of rental of records is separated from the other data generated at the point-of-sale terminals by a data capture device, and the separated data is transmitted to a central computer where it is further processed to separate revenue-sharing record data from other record data, compute the shares due the store proprietor and the distributor of the revenue-sharing records, and for the performance of other functions. The data capture device is usable with a very wide variety of current point-of-sale computers and software so that the store owner can participate in the revenue-sharing system without the expense of buying new software compatible with the central computer. A relatively inexpensive, small-footprint data input terminal is provided.

33 Claims, 21 Drawing Sheets



US-PAT-NO: 5396417

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5396417 A

TITLE: Product distribution equipment and method

Detailed Description Text - DETX (260):

If the POS system is configured to automatically print a customer invoice, a data signal containing certain portions of the information relating to the transaction is supplied from the microcontroller 140 via the bus 154 and the parallel I/O circuit 162 to the printer. Upon receipt of this signal, the printer prints a customer invoice. If the POS system is not so configured, an invoice can be printed by pressing the Print key 514.